

SECRET

AIR

MOB-A-9131

Chief, Foreign Division "M"

28 May 1951

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Operational

Recruiting and Development of CAMBIO

1. CAMBIO was released on 2 November 1945 from the SS Prisoner of War camp in Breitenbach, Czechoslovakia, to be taken to Johanngeorgenstadt, Soviet Zone of Germany, to work as a "free worker" in the Frisch Glück Mine III of the then named Soviet Letodroi Mining Company. While this became the Wismut A.G. in 1945, CAMBIO continued working in Johanngeorgenstadt as a miner, head miner, safety engineer and finally in November 1949 head engineer in a pit in Auerbach. Although he was in close touch with Soviet personnel and had learned to speak some Russian, he had numerous run-ins with Soviet authorities until July 1949 when, CAMBIO says, his pay was cut off indefinitely to persuade him to sign a statement that he would inform for the NKVD.

2. In 1949 CAMBIO says that he was active in anti-Communist activity in Johanngeorgenstadt. He was pilfering paper for one Günther OSTERMANN, a former Latin teacher at the high school in Johanngeorgenstadt. OSTERMANN was printing and distributing anti-Communist pamphlets for the local LDP circle until arrested in August 1949 since which time he has completely disappeared. OSTERMANN, however, was also mixed up with CAMBIO in sabotage. While CAMBIO was security engineer for a number of pits in Johanngeorgenstadt, he was stealing explosives from Wismut which were used by him, CAMBIO 8, CAMBIO 18 and OSTERMANN in blowing up six shaft towers in the areas of Sachsen bei Georgental, Maschegrün and Zoben. CAMBIO does not believe that OSTERMANN was really broken by the security police since CAMBIO 8 and 18 are still working for Wismut. CAMBIO, however, no longer received any pay but since he had received two prizes of 5,000 Ostmarks as an Activist, he could temporarily afford to hold onto his independence. In the middle of November (in writing CAMBIO specifies 18 November while orally he specifies 16 November 1950) he was arrested in Auerbach, taken to Johanngeorgenstadt where on the same day (from) YEVDOUKHANKO (See MGE-11355) read out before him that for "economic sabotage and the stealing of explosives" CAMBIO was sentenced to 25 years' hard labor. On the evening of the same day, he was taken to a private residence in Platten, Czechoslovakia (according to his Lebenslauf, it was Marianka Camp) where he remained for a few hours until called upon by a Soviet officer who took his money on hand (he retained some in a money belt) to be exchanged into Czech currency. This officer told CAMBIO that he would receive on the following day notice of his "new work". CAMBIO says that, because he was not under guard, he did not wait for the news of his new work but left that evening for West Berlin.

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3. Once there, he read the first accounts in the West Berlin press of the heavily exaggerated news reports of the explosion in Pit #57 in Johanngeorgenstadt. This, according to CAMBIO's account, had been organized by him and caused the death of "only 56 miners which was very fortunate since all of them with one exception were 500% SED Aktivisten." This had been a simple matter to organize, claims CAMBIO, because the Soviets with their false sense of economy had, instead of running a cable around a powder magazine, had run the cable directly through it. Consequently heating up the cable, without setting fire to it, was arranged so that when the heat arrived at the powder magazine, where the usual mining explosives and detonators were stored, it blew up. If this explosion story is true and if CAMBIO really organized it, his pride for having brought it off in absentia is understandable.

4. On 16 March 1951 CAMBIO presented himself at the S-2 Liaison Office, 759 Military Police Battalion with a detailed map with legend of the Johanngeorgenstadt area. Since this map was skillfully drawn and appeared to be very detailed, he was paid 10 Westmarks for his trouble. In the course of a short conversation he stated that he had participated in some sabotage of mining installations in the Wismut area and planned to keep in touch with his comrades there for the purpose of further sabotage and holding together a resistance group of miners for the day when hostilities with the Soviet Union began. Since the map contained the exact location of the Soviet Transport unit in Johanngeorgenstadt, it was decided to try out CAMBIO in locating and numbering Transport units in the Wismut mining area. Since he had already mentioned spending a few weeks in this area at the end of April, he fully consented to gather any information we requested of him. It soon came in mind that the CAMBIO operation began in this way -- that he was going to make the trip in order to keep alive his contacts and that we gave him a few tasks to do alongside his planned activities. Since his identity card and work book had been kept by Wismut, he was travelling to the area with no documentation and once there was using various Wismut mine passes of comrades of his to travel about in restricted areas. And because he had already traveled about black in this restricted area in March 1950 and again in January 1951 with no apparent thought for the danger incurred, the coming trip of April 1951 represented to him merely another visit to his comrades. When asked why he had not attempted to obtain some documentation, CAMBIO said that he had heard that illegal shops existed for papering people up but that he had no money. Accordingly he was pleased to be supplied with a false East Zone identity card made out by TAD in exchange for information on Transport units which he would try to collect.

5. At this stage it seems worth the trouble to venture divining his motives for trips to the Soviet Zone just to visit his comrades and to keep the spark of their resistance alive with, as far as can be seen, little gain for himself. The most important factor appears to be his restlessness when unoccupied. He made his first trip in late autumn of 1949 when he became impatient with the refugee and employment situation in West Berlin. At that time following his sentence to 25 years' hard labor by a Soviet "court" and his immediate escape and while his wife remained in the Soviet Zone pregnant, he went black

from West Berlin to the British Zone where on 26 November he reported to the British refugee center in Helstedt. On the following day he was sent to the CCO office in Vlotho (Friedrich Ebertstr. 1) where he was debriefed from 27 November to 18 December 1950. From there he was released to the Hermannsborn camp from which he received a temporary British Zone pass. Unable to find suitable work, he worked as a lumberman while waiting in vain for a fairly good position with an Aachen engineering firm to materialize. When on 5 March 1950 this job fell through, CAMBIO left his poorly paying lumbering job and returned to Saxony to renew his acquaintances. On this short visit he allegedly gathered mining information, obtained a Russian Geiger counter and Electroscope (sic) which he left at Elstertal and crossed over to the American Zone and turned himself in to CIC at Munich. The months at ECIC, even though he spent most of his time at the drafting board and drawing up engineering reports on various uranium mines, were apparently not particularly happy since he told him that his account of his military career did not square with their records. He is proud of his combat record with the Waffen SS and one ~~Vergewalt~~ and insists that his accounting is correct. For that reason, I have requested Washington to look into this matter once again. I feel that the military history he wrote up in his Lebenslauf is probably correct. He has not been discouraged from discussing the fine discipline of the Prussian army and the exploits in arms of the SS. A footnote to this military account is his verbal account of his admiration for ~~Hitler~~. He described an evening during which he witnessed SKORZENY, bundled up so that he was unrecognizable, enter a cafe and refuse to give the Hitler salute. When reprimanded by an officious low ranking officer present, SKORZENY removed his field coat disclosing his identity which caused acute embarrassment on the part of other military personnel present. In a military way, CAMBIO is unashamed of anything he has done and probably looks forward to the time when he will experience the same sort of exhilarating times once again. On the other hand, it is regrettable that there is no record of the work he did from March to June 1950 on uranium mining at ECIC. If these reports turned out to be false, this fact would have been noted or if they were of value, they would certainly have been passed on to the proper intelligence office. In summation, it remains somewhat hazy just what CAMBIO was doing — not to speak of what he was thinking — in the period from November 1949 until June 1950. He had heard no word from his wife and did not even know if he was a father.

6. Released from ECIC in June 1950 without funds, CAMBIO returned to the seams of his poorly paying lumbering job where he was given some money. Although ECIC was anxious to obtain the Russian Geiger counter which he had left in the Soviet Zone, he was refused any help in documentation. Determined to get it anyway, CAMBIO crossed back on 5 July 1950 from the Helstedt area into the Soviet Zone where he was arrested as an illegal border crosser. His game would probably have been up at this point, since his name was listed with the border Volkspolizei as a wanted man, but for the circumstance that the year of his birth as written on his British Zone pass differed from his year of birth on the Volkspolizei wanted list. He says that he talked his way out of the arrest and was returned to the British Zone. He crossed again back into the Soviet Zone, picked up the Geiger counter and was on his way to Berlin by train when an unexpected baggage inspection caused him to leave the train at Jüterborg with the Geiger counter lost to him.

7. He finally arrived in West Berlin on 29 August 1950 where he found his wife, adopted son and new son. They had arrived in Berlin on 7 July 1950. CAMBIO was recognized as a political refugee on 18 September 1950 and on 23 September took a temporary job as turbine engineer at Bomag in Berlin-Koebitz. This job, paying a net salary of 470 Westmarks monthly, lasted until 29 December 1950. Unemployed, he traveled black in January 1951 to Saxony and turned up on 16 March 1951 at 8-2 with his maps.

8. CAMBIO lives in the French Sector of Berlin with his wife, two young children in squalid conditions. Although he has a housing permit from the Berlin Magistrat, he has not the funds to pay for a decent place to live. He receives approximately 100 Westmarks from the social security office. In the developmental field project outline, it has been proposed to pay him provisionally 200 Westmarks monthly.

9. His work for us requires him to spend considerable amounts of time traveling around in the Soviet Zone thereby making it impossible for him to hold down a steady job -- if he could find one -- in West Berlin.

10. CAMBIO has been charged with the following tasks:

a. Obtain telephone numbers, addresses of personnel of all offices and main sections of the main administration of Wismut, A.G. in Siegmarschönau; this includes Soviet offices and German offices.

b. Submit daily reports on ore shipments by truck and rail from various Objekte to Siegmarschönau

c. Gather detailed information on transport units, including location, vehicle numbers, vehicle traffic and Soviet personnel

d. Find out routes and means of transportation of ore being shipped in and out of Siegmarschönau

e. Information on German mistresses of Soviet personnel at Wismut, A.G.

11. This picture will have to be quite well completed before we can begin to consider any further action in the RHAPSODY program.

SECRET

## Cambio.

MGDA-9131

no sign of traces here or in MGDA-8905.

P2. What indep evidence of claimed sabotage?

How come Cambio picked up & P+18 not?

Is cutting off salary to enforce cooperation usual?

Hardly likely man sentenced to 25 yrs for sabotage would be left unguarded.

When actually arrested, Nov. 49? where after that?

P3. see Hahn's note

~~Heard his name from some~~ commented on by creator?

P4. Return to east Germany in purs. of sentence? why come west Berlin in 1st place instead of West Germany?

P5. Where was wife in "orgone"?

Why did British not use him? (humanity they is asked?)

Is it conceivable ECIC has no record of man who spent "months" with them? (Mar. - June 50)

P6. What was his remaining job? No employment office records available?

Illegals crossing aircraft sounds plausibly!

Train inspection episode too fat.

P7. How did wife of convicted, escaped criminal travel to Berlin? two where?

Is it analog of case role?

What is the assurance his identification entry & housing permit?

Book - moving points?

Money for transportation on black trips?

Records of Political Refugee recognition (18 Sept 50)?

British Interrogation (Nov-Dec 50 - note long interrog. period)?

Since when back from Jan 51 try to see zone?

CAMBIO's Movements since July 1949

Pre July 1949:

- 21 Oct. 1948: Conducted Soviet major from Thuringia black into Am Zone.  
up to July 49: Numerous run-ins with Soviets
- ? July 1949: Pay cut off indefinitely to persuade him to inform for NKWD.  
? July 1949 (before or after attempted recruitment for NKWD?): Propaganda and sabotage connections.
- August 1949: Arrest of OSTERMANN, CAMBIO's colleague in propaganda and sabotage.
- 16, 18 or 20 Nov 1949: Arrested for sabotage and stealing explosives; sentenced to 25 years hard labor, taken to private residence (or camp?) in CSR, where left unguarded. Left for West Berlin.
- Late autumn 1949: Crossed black into British Zone after becoming impatient with refugee and employment situation in West Berlin.
- 26 Nov 1949: Reported to British refugee center.  
27 Nov 49 - 18 Dec 49: Debriefed by British CCG, Vlotho.
- 5 March 1950: Left British Zone black for Saxony, after engineering job fell thru or because bored with low-paying lumber job. While in Sov Zone gathered mining info plus Geiger Counter and Electroscope which he left at Elsterstal.
- ? March 1950: Crossed from Sov Zone to Am Zone and reported to CIC Munich.
- ? March 1950 - ? June 1950: Worked for ECIC on uranium mining (no record available)
- ? June 1950: Returned to British Zone and resumed lumber job.
- 5 July 1950: Crossed black to Sov Zone, arrested as illegal border crosser but released because birthyear on VP wanted list differed from that on his British Zone pass.
- ~~8x43kzmx58x58~~
- ? July 1950: After release, returned to British Zone.
- 7 July 1950: Wife and sons arrived West Berlin.
- ? (July or Aug) 50: Again crossed black to Sov Zone, picked up Geiger counter, left it on Berlin-bound train when he got off at Juterborg.
- 29 Aug 50: Arrived West Berlin.
- 18 Sept. 1950: Recognized as political refugee.
- 23 Sept. 1950: Took temporary job as turbine engineer in Berlin-Moabit.
- 29 Dec. 1950: ~~his~~ Engineering job ended.
- ? January 1951: Crossed black to Saxony.
- 16 March 1951: Appeared at S-2 Liaison office, West Berlin. Presented map of Johanneorgenstadt area; was interviewed by [redacted], paid 10 DM, and given false E. Zone identity card and EKI's. Address at this time: French Sector.
- April 1951: Crossed back to Sov Zone.
- 15 May 1951: Expected to return to West Berlin.

Q 1.) Is it customary for NKVD  
to use salary as a control factor?  
2.) What sort of run ins did he  
have w/ soviets? How often? any  
corroboration of same?

~~Q 3.)~~

Q 2.)

- a) name chik on Osterman?
- b) what makes C believe that D  
was not broken?
- c) Is there any evidence other than  
C's assertion, that sabotage  
actually took place? Newspaper  
article said what?

d.) What's the <sup>2</sup>SOP w/ prisoner's money?  
Seems undue solicitude re geldwechsel  
retention of money - customary?

e.) complete absence of guard? How  
could C, sentenced to 25 yr hard  
labor be allowed to just "leave"  
the Marianka camp?

This seems utterly prepos-

terous!

P3) ~~2~~ C's statement that the newspaper  
substantiates his claim of blowing  
up pit #57 is most assuredly  
not conclusive proof -

P4) Map, apparently was accurate -  
but could be strictly of



(3)

the come on variety -

b) Plausibility of an indigent miner maintaining this rather extensive net work, is certainly open to question -

c) Further, his seemingly complete lack of concern in moving about in sov zone w/o any form of documentation is quite remarkable -

d) What about these illegal shops he "heard of" for acquiring documents?

(4)

R 5) a) -

[ ] explanation, based on C's restlessness seems inadequate -

b) What were salient features of Linney debriefing?

c) Where did he work as a lumberman?

d) The extremely nebulous & provocative tale of a Geiger counter & electroscope defies analysis -

1) Where did he get it?

2) What did he expect to do w/ it?

3) Why did he leave it?

etc. —

e) CIC debriefing —

details -

records -

liaison w/ CIC on this character -

(c)

① Detailed study of his mil. hist.  
Shows what?

9) The sudden appearance of his gun,  
needs further explanation.

10) - His age of 31 his 2d release due  
to nervous breakdown strains

and credibility -

10) Under the given count - seems  
to be a red herring -

11) - What was his wife used for

5 notations, while C, totally  
impossible, operates in and of  
the 5 or 2 one?

12) More details on his Bureau  
get -

(6.)

c) Details on the maps -

1.) Where obtained -

2.) What area -

3.) Again, are they deception material?

#8.) French sector - any connec. w/  
FIS? - Has this possibility been  
explored?

Details on the acquisition of his  
theorist's dream network for  
low level info?

7

^

1. ... person & sign statement that he would inform for NKVD
2. ... can print out Com pen, plate for LDP + involved in Cambor in sabotage. Arrested Aug 49 + disappeared. Since he did not have contacts arrested Nov 18 Nov 49.  
From 20 Sept 1949, ... 25 yrs continues to ... (Almalyk-Mavzan Camp) ... called on by Sov Officer who took him to left to be exchanged into Czech. Officer told C. wouldn't report any matter of his new work. C. said as not under guard did not wait for news of new work left that evening for West Berlin.
3. Having news article & back him up in conviction. Article may have inspired her claims.
4. Trip into East 1. Drop up contacts traveling black 2nd such trip.
5. main focus here is whether important refugees & employment set up in West Berlin. big remained present in East ...  
→ Went Berlin-Brit Zone 26 Nov reported refug. into Almalyk 27 Nov. CCC office Vlotho advised 27 Nov-12 Dec 50. Released Hermannsburg camp & sent Temp Brit. Zone Pass worked as lumberman & 5 men with Saxony old. Run Grogan counter. Electroscopist off at Elsterthal close to US zone CIA Munich  
Mar-June 50 visited ECIC ... reports ...  
→ (J.P.) wants reply to these points  
... Nov 49 - June 50 had no work wife

